Madam, as you know, the National coconut Board has recommended a compensation of Rs. 200 per coconut tree which was uprooted during this cyclone, but I have come to know that the Government is proposing only Rs. 100 per coconut tree to make up their loss. I demand that the Government should come to the rescue of farmers who have lost their crops, especially coconut gardens. At the same time, I demand the Government to see that these farmers get relief under present crop insurance scheme for crops damaged during the October-November cyclone and floods. Thank You, Madam.

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY (Andhra Pradesh): Kindly permit me to associate myself with Mr. Narayanaswamy. I urge upon the Government to arrange for immediate payment of crop insurance money to the affected farmers in Andhra pradesh

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RE: PROPOSED GHERAO OF VISHAKHAPATNAM PORT TRUST BY FISHERMEN OF ANDHRA PRADESH FOR NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF MURARI COMMITTEE

डा॰ वाई॰ लक्ष्मी प्रसाद (आंध्र प्रदेश): धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदया। नाइटिंगेल आफ इंडिया कही जाने वाली श्रीमती सरोजनी नायडु की कविता में समान और गौरव पाने वाले कोरोकंडल फिशरमैन, मछुआरे, जो ईस्ट-कोस्ट में हैं, वे आज अपनी रोजी-रोटी के लिए इस सरकार की ओर देख रहे है।

The fishermen led by the National Fishery Workers and the National Forum for Fisheries Action Committee jointly have decided to launch an indefinite blockade of Vishakhapatnam, Kandla and Mumbai Ports from tomorrow onwards to press for cancellation of deep-sea fishing and on the issue of licences to joint ventures, charters, leased and test fishing vessels. इनका जो यह निर्णय है, सही है, पूर्णरूपेण न्यायसंगत है इसका एक बैकग्राउंड भी है। The fishermen had gone on an idefinite fast in August, 1996 but the Minister of State for Food Processing, Shri Dilip Kumar Roy, had given a written assurance to the effect that the Ministry of Food Processing Indusries was processing the recommendations of the Murari Committ[illegible]ith r[illegible]rd to d[illegible]s[illegible]a fish[illegible] policy and that the Government would take steps towards implementation of recommendations within a month, including the issue of cancellation of licences after examining and resolving the legal and financial implications, also that the Ministry also proposed to convene an early meeting of experts in the field with State Government representatives and representatives of fishermen to discuss and evolve a comprehensive fisheries policy that ensures sustainable fisheries, upgradation of the skills of fishermen, welfare of regional fishing community. The poor fishermen believed the assurance given by the Minister and called off their agitation in August, 1996.

परन्तु दुर्भाग्य की बात यह है कि अब तक इस मामले में कुछ नहीं किया गया है। इसलिए आज इन मछुआरों को जान-बूझकर हार्बर ब्लॉकेड करना पड़ा है।

इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सरकार से आग्रह करता हूं कि मछली पकड़ने वाली विदेशी नौकाओं के लाइसेंस रद्द करने की मुरारी समिति की सिफारिशों का आप अनुमोदन करें क्योंकि हमें भारतीय जल में विदेशी नौकाओं की घुसपैठ से नष्ट हो जाने वाली लाखों मछुआरों की जीविका की रक्षा करनी है ताकि वे अपनी और अपने परिवार के लिए रोजी-रोटी कमा सकें। धन्यवाद।

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): I would associate myself with Dr. Lakshmi Prasad. The hon. Minister has given an assurance about five months back. But, so far, no steps have been taken. From tomorrow onwards lakhs of fishermen would be agitating. I would be grateful if the Deputy Chairman directs the Government to settle the issue at the earliest. (*Interruptions*)

DR. Y. LAKSHMIPRASAD (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, from tomorrow onwards they are blockading the ports. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can understand. Mr. Minister, this is a problem of fishermen and Members want a direction from me. As this is a genuine problem of not only Andhra Pradesh but of Maharashtra also.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh): Kerala also.

THE DEPTUY CHAIRMAN: Kerala and all other coastal areas. Big trawlers come and [illegible]

very serious problem for small fishermen because they are not able to go into deep sea. They have to fish near the coastal region only. It has become very polluted. Whatever fish they are able to catch is not good for consumption. It is a serious problem and please convey this to the concerned.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): Madam, I would convey the sentiments of the Members and the direction of the Deputy Chairman, to my colleague.

RE: WORSENING LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN KERALA AND ARREST OF SHRI OOMMEN CHANDY, MLA

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA (Kerala): Madam, the State of Kerala, well known for its quiet and peace-loving people, is heading for a disaster. The law and order situation in Kerala is becoming grave in nature and calls for Centre's intervention. The day before yesterday, on 2nd March, one of the seniormost leaders of Kerala, Shri Oommen Chandy, a Minister for three terms, who for the last 28 years represented a constituency continuously was arrested.

He was arrested and put into jail. Now he is on a hunger-strike in jail. As per information. the agitated people called for a *bandh* and it was a sucess. Though the *bandh* was restricted to Kottyam, there were protest marches everywhere in the State of Kerala. The whole of the State witnessed this agitation. Madam, I am sorry to say that almost at every place the police acted very unjustifiably against the protesting people. In Trivandrum the police used teargas against the protesting people. Madam, this picture in *The Hindu* shows the police throwing teargas shells at the District Congress Office, Trivandrum, though there is nobody in the vicinity. The place is vacant; nobody is there in the vicinity. At Pathanamthitta protesting people were beaten by the police. At Kanjirapally a group of protestors were lathicharged. There were also some anti-social elements who were also alongwith the police beating the protesting people. Madam, the issue started when on 27 [illegible] of Congress, came out with protest marches demanding relaxation in power-cuts because of the SSLC examinations. The students who wanted to study were demanding relaxation in these power-cuts. On that day while marching in Trivandrum, these KSU people were beaten by the police and the President of the organisation, Mr. Joseph, was lathicharged and taken to the hospital. Protesting against this, the KSU called for an educational *bandh*. The students who were marching in Kottayam were beaten by the police. The police also entered the office of the Congress and damaged all the furniture and innocent people were taken into custody. During that period Mr. Oomen Chandy came to the spot and then went to the police station. He wanted that students and other innocent people who had been arrested should be released. He also wanted action against the police officials concerned who encroached into the office of the Congress. But, the police misbehaved with him. Madam, he is the seniormost leader of that area. He was forced to go on a hunger strike before the police station. Later on some senior officials came and the matter was settled. Everybody accepted that settlement. Unfortunately, when a settlement was likely to be arrived at, there were directions from the higher levels and Mr. Oomen Chandy was arrested and taken to the hospital. The *pandal* where he was on hunger strike was also demolished by the police. He was taken to the magistrate and was remanded to sub-jail. At present he is in sub-jail and the remand is up to 14th. He is continuing his hunger strike there also. This grave situation in the State is there for many reasons. The Government is mishandling the issue. It was a very simple issue. It could have been settled within minutes. Mishandling of this issue has posed a very serious situation in the State. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, the other day the Home Minister of the country was saying that the state of U.P. is heading towards chaos, anarchy and destruction. ...(*Interruptions*)... The State of Kerala is also heading towards anarchy, chaos and destruction. I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and appropriate action should be taken immediately. ...(*Interruptions*)... A report may be sought from the State Government in this regard. [illegible]